

From: twodogs/etech67
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/20/02 10:15am

1302 18th Street
Tell City, IN 47586

January 19, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to take a moment to express my views regarding the Microsoft antitrust case. I feel that the settlement reached by the Department of Justice was fair and reasonable. It will allow Microsoft to remain the industry leader while granting the competition more chances to compete, and the consumers more choices between products.

Microsoft has agreed to concessions that have made precedent with regards to antitrust cases. Microsoft has agreed to document and disclose for use by its competitors, various interfaces that are internal to the Windows operating system. Also, computer makers have been granted broad new rights to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft programs that compete with programs already included within Windows. It appears that Microsoft has agreed to give up much of its competitive advantage and market share in an effort to conclude this case.

To put it in perspective, it would be ridiculous to see Nike carry the Reebok logo on its most popular products. Microsoft is willing to take on significant restrictions, however, so I will not oppose them. This settlement will bring a much-needed end to this case, and I support it.

Sincerely,

Ellis Howard

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